

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

PM:TSTERN

H:ASCHNEE

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

NEA/RA:SEPALMERJR.

DOD/OSD/ISA:DSMITH (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203793 TOSEC 100217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, SA, US

SUBJECT: PENDING FMS CASES FOR PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. PURSUANT TO SISCO'S DECISION, CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS ON TWO PENDING CASES: (A) F-14/PHOENIX CONTRACTOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR IRAN AND (B) AMENDMENT NO. 8 TO THE SAUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAM. (REFERENCE IS TO ACTION MEMO FROM YOU TO SISCO DATED AUGUST 13, S/S 7516406.) STAFFS OF THE TWO ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES AND OF THE TWO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OFFERED NO OBJECTIONS TO OUR SENDING UP THESE TWO CASES NOW. HIRC STAFF SAW NO OBJECTION TO OUR MOVING NOW ON THE IRANIAN CASE BUT SUGGESTED WE WAIT UNTIL LATE THIS WEEK ON THE SAUDI CASE. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTY WAS ENCOUNTERED IN CONSULTING WITH SFRC STAFF. SENATOR CASE CONFIDENTIAL

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LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WOULD NOT LIKE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO SEND THE TWO CASES TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE CONGRESS RECONVENES. ON BASIS OF SENATOR CASE'S POSITION, SENATOR SPARKMAN SENT WORD HE DID NOT THINK WE WOULD BE

WELL ADVISED TO SEND THE TWO CASES UP UNTIL CONGRESS IS BACK IN SESSION.

2. I BELIEVE WE HAVE NOW CONSULTED ADEQUATELY ON THESE TWO PARTICULAR CASES AND THAT THEY CAN BE SENT UP FOR THE 20-DAY WAITING PROCESS AS SOON AS CONGRESS RECONVENES.

3. DURING CONSULTATIONS ON THE ABOVE TWO CASES, THERE WAS ALSO SOME SLIGHT DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS COMMITTEE STAFFS OF THE SEVERAL OTHER PENDING CASES FOR KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN WHICH ARE THE FINAL THREE ACTION ITEMS IN YOUR AUGUST 13 MEMORANDUM. NO OBJECTION WAS EXPRESSED BY ANY OF THE STAFFS--EXCEPT SFRC--SHOULD WE WISH TO SUBMIT THESE CASES DURING THE FIRST WEEK OR SO AFTER CONGRESS RECONVENES. IN LIGHT OF SFRC OBJECTION TO THE FIRST TWO CASES MENTIONED ABOVE, HOWEVER, THESE LATTER CASES WERE NOT RAISED WITH SFRC STAFF. IF WE WISH TO MOVE AHEAD ON THESE CASES, WE COULD CONSULT WITH SFRC STAFF ON SOME OR ALL OF THESE CASES WHEN CONGRESS IS BACK, AND AIM TO SUBMIT THE CASES SHORTLY THEREAFTER. PURSUANT TO SISCO'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE WILL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THESE LATTER CASES FOR THE TIME BEING. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE CASES ARE NOT RPT NOT TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW AND DECISION WHICH CAN TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING YOUR RETURN. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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